

NOTE ON THE HYMENOPTEROUS FAMILY RHOPALOSOMATIDÆ.¹

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During the course of a study of African Braconidæ, I find in a collection sent by E. C. Chubb, Director of the Durban Museum, a specimen of the Rhopalosomatid genus *Paniscomima* Enderlein.

A comparison of this species which proves to be the type of the genus, *P. erlangiana*, with the American *Rhopalosoma* enables me to indicate the relation between these two genera and to Morley's *Rhopalosoma abnorme* from India which very evidently represents another genus. It thus appears that this aberrant family includes three genera, each characteristic of a different zoological region, one from America, another from Africa and a third from India.

Paniscomima erlangeriana Enderlein

Zool. Anz., vol. 27, p. 465 (1904)

There is a single male from Widenham, Natal, December 14, 1914 (A. L. Bevis)

Enderlein based his genus *Paniscomima* on a single female from Somaliland and all of the characters which he gives to separate it from *Rhopalosoma* are not valid since he was obliged to rely on Westwood's description and figures. I find on a careful comparison of the present African specimen with specimens of *Rhopalosoma payi* Cress, collected in Haiti by Dr. Wm. M. Mann that several of Enderlein's differential characters (*loc. cit.*) do not really exist since the labial palpi, parapsidal furrows, tibial spurs and obsolete second recurrent nervure are essentially similar in the two. However as set forth in the following key, there are several differences which seem to be of sufficient weight to retain *Paniscomima*.

A comparison of Morley's description of the Indian *Rhopalosoma abnorme* (Trans. London Entom. Soc. 1910, p. 386) shows that it is undoubtedly entitled to generic rank. The strongly

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antefurcal nervulus is a very unusual character (shown clearly in Morley's figure also) and the absence of the strigil on the hind legs of the male is peculiar to the Indian form. The abdomen is described as subsessile with the first segment only twice (σ^7) or three times φ ; as long as broad at apex, a condition quite different from that in the American or African forms. In the latter character, however, the description and figure do not agree, but as the petiole is very carefully described, it seems probable that the figure is somewhat out of proportion. Morley overlooked *Paniscomima* and hence makes no comparison between it and his own species. These two are more closely similar in possessing simple claws, but the form of the abdomen, strigil and venation serve easily to distinguish them.

As stated elsewhere (Psyche, vol. 29, p. 107, 1922) I am unable to agree with Turner and Waterston who have placed *Olixon* Cameron in the Rhopalosomatidae.

Key to the Genera of Rhopalosomatidae.

1. Abdomen subsessile, the first segment two or three times as long as broad at apex; tarsal claws of female simple, not toothed beneath; spurs of hind tibiae of male of equal length, their tarsi without strigil; nervulus strongly antefurcal. Type: *Rhopalosoma abnorme* Cameron

Hymenochimæra gen. nov.

Abdomen petiolate, the first segment four to six times as long as broad at apex; inner spur of hind tibiae of female much longer than the outer, their tarsi with a well developed strigil; nervulus strongly postfurcal. 2.

2. Nervulus oblique, nearer to the basal vein than to the upper angle of the second discoidal cell; radial cell in hind wing truncate at base, the first section of the radius perpendicular to the costa. *Paniscomima* Enderlein

Nervulus not nearer to the basal vein than to the upper angle of the second discoidal cell; radial cell in hind wing obliquely rounded at base, the first section of the radius curved below toward the apex of the wing

Rhopalosoma Cresson